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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Item 33 of the preliminary list*
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 12 March 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to our earlier letters concerning repeated Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon and the western Bekaa, I have the honour to notify you of a series of such attacks that took place during February 1996.

1 February 1996

The town of Rshaf, which is in the area between the border strip and the liberated areas, was subjected to harassment by Israeli forces and Lahad forces bringing pressure to bear on its inhabitants, as set forth hereunder.

2 February 1996

A group from the Lahad militia told the inhabitants of Rshaf that they must proceed every day at 1700 hours to the houses adjacent to the Lahad headquarters and sleep there until the following morning, and it imposed a curfew on the town during the same period.

The inhabitants were prevented from entering or leaving the town.

Lists of the names of residents of Rshaf and frequent visitors to the town were drawn up by the Lahad militia and presented to the Israeli forces.

* A/51/50.

A Lahad force proceeded to encircle the town and to arrest a number of residents. They were taken to the Baranit crossing at Rumaysh and were there questioned by an Israeli officer who asked them, in the interests of their own safety, to help the Lahad militia and to inform it of all movements by resistance elements in Rshaf.

3 February 1996

The vicinity of Majdal Zun and Mansuri, in the Tyre district, came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

4 February 1996

The Israeli gunboats on station off the Mansuri coast in the Tyre district seized a fishing boat called Al-Ghadir (No. 1006), with the following Lebanese on board: Usamah Tawfiq al-Samra, Wisam Tawfiq al-Samra and Zayn Ahmad Istanbuli.

5 February 1996

The vicinity of Junayh, Izziyah al-Qalilah and Mansuri, in the Tyre district, came under Israeli artillery bombardment in which Amirah Muhammad Musa Khashshab (35) was killed and Mervat Ali Isma'il (27) was injured.

6 February 1996

At 1500 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Iqlim al-Tuffah area.

At 1715 hours the hills to the south of Ayn al-Tinah and Mashgharah came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

At 2030 hours the vicinity of Bra'shit, Tibnin, Haddatha and Ayta al-Jabal came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

7 February 1996

At 0630 hours the vicinity of Kafr Tibnin and Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and the area around the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

At 0700 hours Israeli forces and Lahad forces shelled the vicinity of Mashgharah and Ayn al-Tinah.

At 1200 hours Israeli forces fired flares in the direction of the fishing boats off the Mahallat al-Ma'liyah beach at Tyre.

At 2230 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Mashgharah, Ayn al-Tinah and Maydun.

12 February 1996

Israeli warplanes overflew the Tyre area.

14 February 1996

The vicinity of Jba' and Kafr Fila came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

The vicinity of Habbush and Kafr Rumman and the abandoned Army barracks in Nabatiyah al-Fawqa came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

15 February 1996

At 1045 hours and again between 1240 and 1300 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Tyre area at medium altitudes.

16 February 1996

At 0515 hours the vicinity of Majdal Zun came under artillery bombardment and bursts of fire from Israeli forces.

At 0600 hours Kafra, Yatar, Haris, Haddatha, Shaqra, Ayta al-Jabal, Tibnin, Bra'shit, Majdal Silm, Tulin, Qabrikha, Frun and Ghanduriyah came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

At 0700 hours the hills of Mashgharah and Ayn al-Tinah came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

At 0730 hours the vicinity of Kafr Tibnin, Jarju', Jba', Arabsalim, Ayn Bu Siwar, Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and the area around the Army barracks there, the Habbush bridge and the Ayn Bu Siwar-Jarju' highway came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

At 2100 hours a number of artillery shells fired from positions occupied by Israeli forces and Lahad forces fell in the vicinity of Jun and Muhtadarah in the Shuf district.

At 2200 hours the hills of Mashgharah and Ayn al-Tinah came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

At 2300 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the southern area.

17 February 1996

The vicinity of Kafr Rumman and Habbush, in the Nabatiyah district, came under artillery bombardment and bursts of fire from the Israeli positions in the border strip.

18 February 1996

The vicinity of Tulin, Qabrikha, Majdal Silm, Tamiriyah, Ghanduriyah and Frun came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

19 February 1996

The vicinity of Jba' and Mazra'at al-Hamra' came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

The vicinity of Arabsalim, Jarju', Ayn Bu Siwar and Jba' and the hills of Mlita and Jabal Safi came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

20 February 1996

Jabal Abu Rashid and the vicinity of Ayn al-Tinah came under artillery bombardment from Lahad forces and Israeli forces.

At 2115 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area.

At 2130 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Tyre area.

21 February 1996

At 0600 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area.

At 1400 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Tyre area.

At 2030 hours Israeli warplanes attacked Tallat Mlita.

22 February 1996

At 0600 hours the Lahad forces closed the Batir-Jazzin crossing in the Beirut direction to both vehicles and pedestrians, and at 0700 hours they closed the Kafr Hunah-Marj Uyun crossing in both directions. They reopened the two crossings at 1700 hours.

At 0630 hours Israeli warplanes attacked the hills of Mlita and Jabal Safi. They then carried out mock attacks.

At 2120 hours Israeli warplanes bombarded the vicinity of Ayn Bu Siwar and the hills of Mlita and Jabal Safi.

At 2230 hours the vicinity of Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and the Lebanese Army barracks there came under Israeli artillery bombardment in which a member of the internal security forces was wounded.

23 February 1996

The vicinity of Arabsalim, Jarju', Ayn Bu Siwar and Jba' and the hills of Mlita and Jabal Safi came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

24 February 1996

At 0630 hours the vicinity of Kafr Rumman, Kafr Tibnin, Nabatiyah al-Fawqa, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, the area around the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks in Nabatiyah al-Fawqa, Arabsalim, Jarju', Ayn Bu Siwar, Jba' and the hills of Mlita and Jabal Safi came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

25 February 1996

The vicinity of Shaqra, Bra'shit, Majdal Silm, Tibnin, Ayta al-Jabal, Haddatha and Haris came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

26 February 1996

The vicinity of Arnun, Yuhmur, Kafr Tibnin and Mazra'at al-Hamra and areas along the Litani river came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

27 February 1996

The vicinity of Ayta al-Jabal, Haddatha, Haris, Bra'shit, Shaqra, Kafra and Yatar came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

29 February 1996

Kafra, Haris, Yatar and the vicinity came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

The Lebanese Government strongly condemns these repeated Israeli attacks, which have caused loss of life, numerous injuries and serious damage to property. It further condemns in the strongest terms the arbitrary practices directed against civilians.

Like previous attacks, this new series constitutes blatant aggression against the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon and represents another flagrant violation of international law and basic human rights.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 33 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir MOUBARAK
Permanent Representative

UNITED
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S/1996/208
21 March 1996

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Item 41 of the preliminary list*
SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM
OF THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS TO
PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR
RESTORED DEMOCRACIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 20 March 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine issued on 15 March 1996 concerning the adoption of the resolution of the State Duma of the Russian Federation dated 15 March 1996 on the closer integration of the peoples which had united into the USSR and the repeal of the decision of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Soviet Federated Soviet Republic of 12 December 1991 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 41 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Anatoli M. ZLENKO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Ukraine
to the United Nations

* A/51/50.

ANNEX

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the adoption of the resolution of the State Duma of the Russian Federation dated 15 March 1996 on the closer integration of the peoples which had united to form the USSR and the repeal of the resolution of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR of 12 December 1991

On 15 March 1996, the State Duma of the Russian Federation adopted a resolution on the closer integration of the peoples which had united to form the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the repeal of the resolution of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR of 12 December 1991. The Supreme Soviet's resolution of 12 December 1991 denounced the Treaty on the formation of the USSR.

In this connection, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine is authorized to state the following.

In Ukraine, the adoption of this resolution by the State Duma of the Russian Federation is regarded as an attempt by certain political circles in the Russian Federation to reactivate the former USSR. The hopes of reviving the former unified federative State are without any legal basis, including in international law, and do not reflect the realities of the political situation that has emerged today both in the development of the independent countries that have been formed on the territory of the former USSR and in the development of the Commonwealth of Independent States as a whole. Ukraine condemns such actions as constituting a threat to the peace and stability not only of those States, but also of the entire world community.

More than four years ago, Ukraine exercised its right to self-determination in accordance with the universally accepted principles and norms of international law embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act. The will of the Ukrainian people to establish an independent Ukrainian State was accorded the highest form of legitimacy through the results of the nationwide referendum held on 1 December 1991. Almost 92 per cent of the population voted for Ukraine's independence.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine is authorized to state that the adoption by the State Duma of the Russian Federation of the above resolution entails no legal consequences for Ukraine, in that it is a domestic instrument of the Russian Federation and cannot have extraterritorial jurisdiction. Moreover, implementation of the resolution will in fact mean the withdrawal of the Russian Federation from the Commonwealth of Independent States with all the unpredictable consequences to which that might lead.

Ukraine, as a founder member of the Commonwealth of Independent States, has from the very beginning of that institution's existence pursued a policy of closer and broader equitable and mutually advantageous cooperation within the Commonwealth, and takes it that the modalities of its participation, as well as

its status within the Commonwealth of Independent States, are determined by the legislative instruments adopted by the Supreme Council of Ukraine on ratifying the Agreement establishing the Commonwealth of Independent States and by the associated reservations. Ukraine will continue in the future to proceed on the understanding that the establishment of the Commonwealth of Independent States made possible to maintain under new historical circumstances the close and multifaceted links that existed between the Republics of the former Soviet Union and to prevent the emergence on the territory of the former USSR of dangerous trends which could lead to general instability and serious conflicts.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine cannot but draw attention to the fact that, against a background of advancing processes of the strengthening and deepening of bilateral and multilateral relations within the Commonwealth of Independent States, certain political forces in individual States members of that Commonwealth are taking steps that could make the situation in the Commonwealth of Independent States much more complicated. The above-mentioned decision by the State Duma of the Russian Federation may be viewed in precisely this light.

Kiev, 15 March 1996

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14 March 1996

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Item 113 (c) of the preliminary list*
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 13 March 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On 1 March 1996, the House of Representatives of the Croatian Parliament adopted a Declaration stating that the issue of missing and imprisoned persons and persons taken away by force is a political issue of primary importance for the Republic of Croatia. A copy of the Declaration is provided in the annex to the present letter. The status of these persons, especially those who disappeared in 1991, has not been clarified and continues to be a matter of utmost concern for the Republic of Croatia, and especially for the families of these persons.

The Foreign Ministers of the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) signed an Agreement on Cooperation in the Search for Missing Persons. However this has not achieved any meaningful results, largely owing to the intransigence of the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). It is because of this lack of progress that the Croatian Parliament has asked that a direct appeal be made to you to help effectuate measures designed to make known the fate of the missing and imprisoned persons and persons taken away by force in the Republic of Croatia. Despite improvements in relations between the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), bilateral discussions alone on the subject of missing persons have not borne fruit and a multilateral approach is, therefore, necessary to resolve this problem.

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* A/51/50.

Discovering the fate of these persons is critical in the implementation of the Dayton peace agreement, and especially to the Basic Agreement on the Region of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium in the Republic of Croatia. In this specific region, ensuring protection of mass grave sites, such as the one at Ovcara, and beginning the process of exhumation, would be helpful.

Another measure which would facilitate the search for missing persons in Croatia consists of establishing a regional centre for this purpose in Vukovar. Furthermore, the proposal by the expert member of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances responsible for the special process dealing with the problem of missing persons in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, Mr. Manfred Nowak, that a multilateral commission be established to speed up the exchange of information on missing persons, would also be of great assistance.

In conclusion, it is necessary to discover the fate of the missing persons in the Republic of Croatia not only in order to alleviate the suffering of their families and loved ones, but also to contribute to the process of peace in the Republic of Croatia and in the entire region.

I would be grateful for your kind assistance in circulating the text of the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly under item 113 (c) of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Declaration adopted by the House of Representatives of the Croatian Parliament at its session of 1 March 1996, after the discussion of 28 February 1996 on the Croatian Government's report on the search for Croatian soldiers and civilians missing, taken away by force or imprisoned, conducted in 1994 and 1995

The issue of missing and imprisoned persons and persons taken away by force is the most painful humanitarian and the most important political issue in the Republic of Croatia. Since the onset of the Serbian aggression against Croatia, there have been 2,792 missing persons of whose fate nothing is known. Most of them disappeared during the barbarous destruction and occupation of Vukovar.

Despite great efforts by the Croatian Government, the Government's Commission for Imprisoned and Missing Persons and the associations of families of persons missing, imprisoned and taken away by force, the fate of these persons, particularly those who disappeared in 1991, has not yet been clarified. Many members of these families have fallen seriously ill, and the insecurity is directly damaging their health. This is the reason why the search for persons taken away by force and the clarification of the fate of missing persons was an issue of utmost concern for the Croatian delegation during the negotiations in Dayton and during the search for an overall peaceful solution for the former Yugoslavia. It has also been raised during numerous bilateral talks.

These efforts have resulted in the signing of the Agreement on Cooperation in the Search for Missing Persons by the Foreign Ministers of the Republic of Croatia and the so-called Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. However, despite its clear commitment within this Agreement, the Serbian side has not done anything to fulfil it.

The Croatian Parliament recalls that the Serbian side keeps suspending negotiations on the exchange of prisoners and missing persons in order to exert political pressure and, by refusing to admit the presence of prisoners in prisons under its control, obstructs the process of prisoner exchange and opposes the main principles of the Dayton peace agreement. In order to solve this problem, support by the entire international community is necessary. The Croatian Parliament requested from the Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (UNTAES) to make the issue of imprisoned and missing persons of the utmost priority in the implementation of the UNTAES mandate and suggested that a regional centre for the protection of human rights of persons imprisoned, missing and taken away by force - "Vukavarske majke" ("Vukovar Mothers") - be established in Vukovar. The Croatian Parliament supports the proposal of the United Nations special envoy for missing persons, Mr. Manfred Nowak, to establish a multilateral commission to speed up the exchange of information on missing persons.

It is the position of the Republic of Croatia that all future negotiations with the so-called Federal Republic of Yugoslavia must primarily resolve the issue of persons who disappeared or were imprisoned during the recent war in the

Republic of Croatia. Without a solution to that issue the peace process for the former Yugoslavia is not possible.

The Croatian Parliament commits the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia to approach the Secretary-General of the United Nations once again and ask for assistance in solving the biggest humanitarian problem in the Republic of Croatia. When adopting a document on the human rights situation in Croatia, the United Nations should bear in mind and express an opinion on the human rights of persons who disappeared during the aggression against Croatia and of thousands of people who are still searching for the truth as to their dearest.

The Croatian Parliament commits the Government to mark appropriately the sites of mass graves and the sites where bodies of Croatian soldiers and civilians were exhumed. It is essential to secure additional teams to identify the remains, and therefore the Parliament requests the provision of additional funds for the work of the Government's Commission for Imprisoned and Missing Persons. A representative of the Parliament should also participate in the work of the Commission. For the purpose of better public information, the Parliament commits the Government to inform the Parliament on the work of the Government's Commission within three months.

The Parliament of the Republic of Croatia calls upon the United Nations and all its human rights organizations, as well as the parliaments of all democratic countries, to raise their voices in the name of humanism and international humanitarian law for the protection of these people, whose fate is unknown, and to exert further pressure upon the so-called Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to cooperate in solving these issues.

House of Representatives of the
Parliament of the Republic of Croatia

Chairman of the House of
Representatives

Vlatko PAVLETIĆ

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Fifty-first session
Item 113 of the preliminary list*

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Letter dated 19 March 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you a document which was circulated by the Russian Delegation in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and is entitled "Violation of the rights of non-citizens of Estonia" and which contains numerous facts indicating discrimination against the Russian-speaking population in Estonia (see annex).

I should be most grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as an official document under agenda item 113 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) S. LAVROV

* A/51/50.

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ANNEX

Violation of the rights of non-citizens of Estonia

(A document circulated by the Russian delegation in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe)

The Estonian authorities are still conducting a policy of infringement of the rights of the Russian-speaking population of Estonia.

1. The lack of citizenship on the part of one third of the population of Estonia remains the most acute problem in that country. In defining the legal status of non-citizens, Estonian legislators are attempting to circumvent international norms by replacing, for example, the term "person without citizenship" with the definition "foreigner who is entitled to obtain Estonian citizenship". The extreme, in the view of independent experts, requirements with regard to examinations in the Estonian language and knowledge of the Constitution (as well as a number of other laws) are being maintained for persons applying for Estonian citizenship and the term "examination" is being replaced by the word "test", which has a completely different meaning for Europeans.

2. Under a discriminatory law on cultural autonomy, only citizens of Estonia are recognized as representatives of national minorities, which limits the possibility of tens of thousands of other permanent residents to develop the use of their mother tongue, culture and education and runs counter to article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

3. Estonian legislation is designed to restrict the political, social and economic rights of non-citizens. Restriction of the voting rights of non-citizens is being provided for under amendments to the law on elections to local self-government bodies (the Parliament has completed the first reading of these amendments). A policy is being conducted with the aim of excluding the Russian-speaking population from the property reform. This was also seen during the recent discussion by the Parliament of the Estonian Republic of amendments and supplements to land legislation. It appears that the "non-indigenous residents" will be deprived even of the right to purchase land under private houses.

4. For the issuance of passports to foreigners, the Estonians will increase the number of persons defined as "foreigners" at the expense of non-citizens who have the right to permanent residence and residence permits as well as children under the age of 15, neglecting thereby to define their legal status and denying them protection by Estonian diplomatic and consular missions. On the basis of humanitarian considerations, the Russian side agreed to include a foreigner's passport in the list of documents for visa-free entry into the Russian Federation. This decision is of a temporary nature (until the end of 1996).

5. There is still evidence of the trend to curtail in Russian schools the teaching of subjects necessary for the development of pupils' national consciousness, particularly the Russian language and literature as well as the

history of Russia. The threat still exists that instruction in Russian in the higher grades in those schools will be halted in the year 2000, which would lower the intellectual level of Russian-speaking young people and make them uncompetitive in various areas of mental work.

6. The Estonian authorities have attempted to restrict the right of "non-citizens" to freedom of religion. Through the refusal by the Department of Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Estonian Republic to register the Estonian Orthodox Church (EOC) under its historic name, they are seeking to deprive it of its name, then its property and consequently its freedom to conduct religious activities (the Church's membership in Estonia numbers more than 100,000 persons). The crisis in relations between the Moscow and Constantinople Patriarchates was brought about also by blatant interference on the part of the Estonian State authorities in an area that is constitutionally separate from the State.

7. The comments on Estonia by the Geneva-based United Nations Human Rights Committee recommended reviewing domestic legislative provisions that were discriminatory with respect to non-citizens and bringing them into accordance with articles 2 and 26 of the Covenant.

8. The recommendations of the Human Rights Committee point to a lack of laws guaranteeing implementation of the provisions of articles 3 and 123 of the Constitution of the Estonian Republic, where reference is made to the priority of international treaties over national legislation, which is becoming increasingly relevant in connection with the expected ratification by Estonia of the European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

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22 March 1996
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Fifty-first session
Item 27 of the preliminary list*

NECESSITY OF ENDING THE ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL EMBARGO IMPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AGAINST CUBA

Letter dated 20 March 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the Declaration from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba, dated 19 March 1996 (see annex). I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 27 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Pedro NUÑEZ MOSQUERA
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative

* A/51/50.

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ANNEX

Declaration dated 19 March 1996 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The adoption by the United States Congress and the signing by the President of that country of the so-called "Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act" is essentially an act of aggression against the Cuban nation. It is yet another attempt at imposing on Cuba the hegemonistic and expansionist wishes that persist among powerful groups in the United States.

The United States Government is thereby manifesting very clearly its disregard for the norms that govern international law and coexistence. The attempt by the United States to legislate from afar, in English and using its organs of Government, the destiny and future of the Cuban nation is a dangerous assault on such cardinal principles as respect for sovereignty, independence and self-determination.

The aim is clear: it is to punish Cuba for seeking tenaciously to determine freely, sovereignly and independently its own political, economic and social organization; for securing for its people a future of justice, free from foreign interference and petty interests such as those which, for more than 60 years, controlled the country under the protection of United States. It is the latest effort to destroy the Cuban revolution, a desperate attempt which, as the Act itself reveals, they have been pursuing ever since 1 January 1959.

This action by the United States administration is also an assault on the international community as a whole and, in fact, it is tantamount to an attempt at world government; Cuba has been uttering timely warnings about this. The aim is to bring the weight of United States law to bear on third countries and to compel Governments, citizens and private entities of sovereign States to join in the policy of economic blockade against Cuba, a policy which the international community has consistently repudiated and condemned.

It demonstrates the utmost disregard for international public opinion and the wishes of the overwhelming majority of sovereign and independent States. The provisions of this legal instrument are contrary to important rules of international trade and of the organizations that regulate that essential activity among nations.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba emphatically rejects this new aggressive act of the Government of the United States. The attempt to starve the Cuban people into submission will fail, as have all other hostile efforts which have been directed against the Cuban revolution over the past 37 years and more. Cuba is resolutely determined to defend its sovereignty, independence and self-determination and it knows that it has justice and truth on its side.

Cuba is showing encouraging signs of economic recovery and they will not be reversed or slowed by the promulgation and implementation of that act. The strategy we have been following in recent years in order to survive economically

and to resume the path of development will continue to expand, and Cuba's economic ties with the world will continue to grow stronger.

While rejecting all attempts at foreign interference and imposition, Cuba emphasizes that it seeks to live at peace with all countries of the world on the basis of respect and equality. That is what the Cuban people want and they will not be deterred from their goal.

As the Cuban Government has said, there is no turning back from the road on which the revolution embarked on 1 January 1959.